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## ANTISATELLITE BAN CALLED UNSOUND

Reagan Aide Tells Senate Any  
Pact Against Such Arms  
Would Be Hard to Verify

Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, March 15 — A Pentagon official told the Senate today that he believed it would be "extremely difficult, if not impossible," to verify that the Soviet Union was complying with any treaty to prohibit weapons capable of destroying space satellites. He predicted the White House would take a similar view later this month.

The official, Richard N. Perle, the Assistant Secretary of Defense for International Security Policy, told the strategic warfare subcommittee of the Armed Services Committee that his remarks represented the views of the Defense Department and the "intelligence community."

He said he thought it unlikely that the Administration as a whole would take a different view in a report on antisatellite weapons to be furnished to Congress by March 31.

There is strong sentiment in both Houses of Congress for negotiating a treaty on anti-satellite weapons, with the Soviet Union, in order to avoid initiating a new arms race in space.

### Funds Withheld by Congress

Congress withheld \$19.4 million in funds to prepare to produce a United States antisatellite weapon last year until President Reagan furnished a report on the "arms control implications" of such a weapon and the Administration's conclusions as to whether compliance with a treaty could be verified. This report is due no later than March 31.

Another law forbids a test of the United States weapon against a target in space until Mr. Reagan certifies that he has made a good faith effort to enter into negotiations with the Soviet Union on a treaty limiting anti-satellite weapons. There is no time limit on this legislation.

The proposed United States weapon consists of a two-stage, 18-foot rocket carried to high altitude by an Air Force F-15 fighter and fired into space. It is designed to carry a small homing vehi-

cle that would track a target satellite by heat seeking guidance and destroy it with a high velocity impact. The Air Force fired such a rocket into space in January in a test of the propulsion system, but a test against a target is not scheduled until autumn.

The Soviet Union has been testing a different type of anti-satellite weapon for more than 10 years, but many scientists say that most tests have been failures and that the weapon, which boosts an explosive warhead into low space orbit, is a relatively primitive device. The Administration, however, consistently describes it as an "operational" weapon.

### Test Ban Called Verifiable

Scientists who favor a treaty say that it would be impossible to verify a ban on possession of anti-satellite weapons but that a ban on testing such weapons in space would be verifiable. These scientists say that no weapon of this type can be deployed for combat with-

out such tests.

Congressional and scientific advocates of a treaty argue that space satellites help deter war by providing both the United States and the Soviet Union with the means to watch military movements and to have early warning of a missile attack.

Mr. Perle, however, argued that the undetected development of a Soviet anti-satellite weapon would permit it to knock out low orbit American reconnaissance satellites in a crisis and force the United States to "escalate faster" in a conventional conflict.

A Senate official said Mr. Perle had also said that he would not favor a treaty even if such a pact were verifiable. One reason for this, Mr. Perle testified, is the Soviet ocean reconnaissance satellite system.

While most satellites on both sides are for surveillance and not tracking military targets for attack, the Defense Department believes that the ocean reconnaissance system would facilitate Soviet attack on United States naval units.

Mr. Perle also said that "for all we know there are anti-satellite weapons up there now. We can't rule it out."

Since the known Soviet weapon is a ground-launched, orbital device, Mr. Perle may have been referring to the possibility that some form of "space mine," disguised as an ordinary satellite, had been put in orbit.